



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 12 June 2014
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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Report of the Commission on the implementation of the provisions on producer organisations, operational funds and operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector since the reform in 2007 - Common declaration of Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia

With a view to the session of the Council ("Agriculture and Fisheries") on 16-17 June 2014, delegations will find attached in Annex a common declaration of Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia, to be entered in the minutes of the Council.

Common Declaration of Bulgaria, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia on the report from the Commission on the implementation of the provisions concerning producer organisations, operational funds and operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector since the 2007 reform

WE WELCOME the report of the Commission on the implementation of the 2007 reform in the fruit and vegetables sector and consider it as a good basis for further negotiations in the coming future.

WE SUPPORT the Presidency in reaching a balanced Council Conclusions and WE CONFIRM our willingness to help to reach this goal.

CONCERNING the new legislative framework and the Conclusions on the fruit and vegetable sector:

We REQUEST the COMMISSION to table its proposal as soon as possible to have a thorough discussion, in order to ensure that the new legislative act would enter into force within this financial period.

WE UNDERLINE the importance of ensuring the proper functioning of the market in the fruit and vegetables sector.

WE HIGHLIGHT that the main problem of the sector in the above mentioned Member States is the low degree of organisation.

WE STATE that there is an imbalance of organisation in the sector between Member States and regions, because these Member States have had limited time to set up producer organisations with EU support.

WE REQUEST the Commission to draft such measures, which are able to strike the right balance among Member States.

WE ARE CONVINCED that the main instrument for boosting the attractiveness of producer organisations is to implement a wider range of measures of the Operational Programmes.

- to introduce higher financing rate for less organised regions
- to lower or to abolish the condition regarding the share of fruits and vegetables production in the Member State's total agricultural output in the connection with the EU reimbursement of national financial assistance
- to put greater emphasize on young growers
- to consider the reintroduction of EU support for investments of new organisations

WE HIGHLIGHT the importance of currently available crisis prevention and management instruments, however in this respect WE INVITE the Commission to take into consideration the specificities of Member States with low degree of organisation:

WE UNDERLINE the need of simplifying the existing system with the reduction of administrative and financial burden to the minimum, but at the same time WE REQUEST the Commission to establish clear and transparent legal framework.

WE UNDERLINE that the new CAP provides enough subsidies for the implementation of environmental objectives, therefore WE SUGGEST to abolish the obligation of spending subsidies for the implementation of further environmental measures in the fruit and vegetables sector.

WE UNDERLINE the need of reviewing the current legislation in order to ensure better targeting of the support for producer organisations in all Member States.